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October 6, 2015

To: Each Supervisor

From: Cynthia A. Harding, M.P.H.
Interim Director

Subject: **Los Angeles County Operational Area and Southern California Region
Bioterrorism Response Exercise**

This memo is to inform you that the Department of Public Health (DPH) will be conducting a week-long emergency response exercise November 16-20, 2015, as required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). DPH has been working with other County departments to plan for this exercise, including Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management, Fire Department, Sheriff's Department, Department of Public Social Services, Department of Public Works, Department of Parks and Recreation, and others. In addition, Los Angeles County will join with 11 other counties in the Southern California region to test the ability of the public health system to provide preventive medications following a bioterrorism attack.

The exercise will begin on Monday, November 16 and will end on Friday, November 20. Preliminary event activities leading up to the exercise will begin on Thursday, November 12, 2015. A brief description of each exercise day is detailed in an attachment to this memo.

This exercise will test many emergency response related capabilities, including the ability to detect biological agents, seek emergency declarations and request state and federal support, provide public information, and deliver and dispense medications to the public. DPH will be operating medical points of dispensing (M-POD) with the cities of Alhambra, Carson, Culver City, Downey, Los Angeles (Granada Hills), Palmdale, and Rosemead, and the unincorporated County area of South Los Angeles. The Long Beach and Pasadena Public Health Departments will be running M-POD exercises in their jurisdictions, as well. DPH will be training and exercising at each M-POD with DPH staff, other County employees, staff from various cities,

and community volunteers to practice rapidly dispensing life-saving medications following a bioterrorism attack. This is the first functional exercise of this complexity and scale conducted with Los Angeles County's operational area, regional, state, and federal partners.

The DPH Emergency Preparedness and Response Program will facilitate observation of M-PODs by guest observers from the Board of Supervisors. To schedule a time to observe, contact Stella Fogleman at (213) 637-3600 or sfogleman@ph.lacounty.gov.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

CAH:db

Attachment

c: Interim Chief Executive Officer
 Interim County Counsel
 Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

Los Angeles County Operational Area and Southern California Regional Bioterrorism Response Exercise Schedule November 2015



DATE/TIME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
Thursday, November 12 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Location to be determined.	The Los Angeles County (LAC) Emergency Management Council and select city leaders will exercise the initial response including: 1) Developing strategic objectives and mission critical priorities; 2) Requesting local, state, and federal emergency declarations; 3) Activating County emergency plans, continuity of government and operations plans, and emergency management structure; 4) Establishing public messaging strategies; 5) Issuing initial requests for local, state and federal resources; and 6) Notifying cities and partners.
Monday, November 16 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	LAC Dept. of Public Health Central Health Center 241 N. Figueroa St, #152 Los Angeles, CA 90012	County Health Officer will initiate the response including: 1) Reviewing environmental evidence of a bioterrorism attack, receiving classified intelligence, and conferring with local, state and federal authorities; 2) Activating the departmental emergency management structure, emergency plans, and continuity of operations plans; 3) Alerting, notifying, and deploying command staff; and 4) Issuing decisions, declarations, mission critical priorities, and resource requests to local, state and federal agencies.
Tuesday, November 17 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	LAC Dept. of Public Health Environmental Health 5050 Commerce Drive Baldwin Park, CA 91706	LAC Joint Information Center will be activated and County Public Information Officers will exercise the County Joint Information System Plan including: 1) Issuing initial "One Voice" public information messages; and 2) Practicing response to simulated public inquiries.
Wednesday, November 18 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Pomona Fairplex 1101 W. McKinley Avenue Pomona, CA 91768	LAC Department of Public Health (DPH) and other County/City agencies will exercise the Medical Countermeasure (MCM) Distribution Plan including: 1) Receiving assets from the federal Strategic National Stockpile (SNS); 2) Processing assets using an inventory management system; 3) Delivering medical materiel to LAC EMS Agency; 4) Delivering medication and supplies to select Points of Dispensing (PODs); and 5) Providing critical information to the Dept. Operations Center (DOC).
Thursday, November 19 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Almansor Park & Gymnasium 800 S. Almansor Street Alhambra, CA 91801	LAC DPH and other County and City agencies will exercise the DPH Mass Prophylaxis Plan and POD Field Operations Guide including: 1) Activating 8 PODs by conducting site activation, facility set up, and dispensing drills with community volunteers as clients (select sites), staff training, and site closure; 2) Managing the response under coordinated multiagency leadership; and 3) Providing critical information from POD sites to the DOC.
Friday, November 20		The LAC DPH and other County and City agencies will exercise the DPH Mass Prophylaxis Plan and POD Field Operations Guide including: 1) Returning assets to the federal SNS; and 2) Conducting after action review and improvement planning.